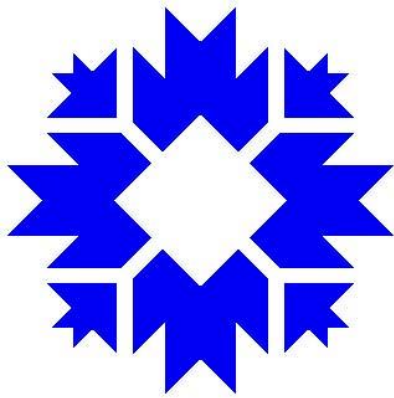


City of Bloomington

Common Council

Citizens' Academy 2016

Office of the Common Council
P.O. Box 100 401 North Morton Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47402
812.349.3409
council@bloomington.in.gov
<http://www.bloomington.in.gov/council>



The Bloomington Common Council

Duty

The Bloomington Common Council Establishes City Policy through the enactment of ordinances and the adoption of resolutions, orders and motions for the governing of the City of Bloomington. The Council also approves and adopts the City budget. (Indiana Code § 36-4-6-1-18)

Members

The Common Council is composed of nine members who are elected by the voters of the City to represent them over a four year term. The term of the current Council runs from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019. Six of the members represent individual districts and three of the members serve the City at-large.

Officers

President	Andy Ruff
Vice-President	Susan Sandberg
Parliamentarian	Steve Volan

Council

At-Large	Tim Mayer
At-Large	Andy Ruff
At-Large	Susan Sandberg
District I	Chris Sturbaum
District II	Dorothy Granger
District III	Allison Chopra
District IV	Dave Rollo
District V	Isabel Piedmont-Smith
District VI	Steve Volan

Democracy in Action

The Council values citizen feedback! There are multiple ways to communicate with us.

- Email: council@bloomington.in.gov or email each Council member directly (see attached contact sheet).
- Send the Council a letter: Bloomington Common Council, P.O. Box 100, Bloomington, IN 47402.
- Call the Council Office: 812.349.3409 or call each Councilmember directly (see attached contact sheet).
- Visit the Council Office at 401 N Morton St., Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Attend a Council meeting! Usually the first four Wednesdays of the month. Check our website for the next meeting date and upcoming legislation.
- www.bloomington.in.gov/council

M^eetings

Council meetings are generally held on Wednesdays in the Council Chambers of City Hall. In addition, committees of the Council meet on both a regular and ad-hoc basis. All meetings of the Council are open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.¹

Public Comment: *Tell us what you think!*

The Council strongly encourages the public to participate in meetings of the Council and of its committees. It is through sustained communication with members of the public – conversation, e-mail, and public comment --that Council is best able to discern the public's perspective on issues that face our community.

When it comes to speaking at meetings of the full Council, members of the public are provided many opportunities to speak their mind. At Regular Sessions, members of the public are afforded five minutes each to speak to issues of community concern, not otherwise listed on the Agenda. Opportunity for comment is provided at both the beginning and the end of the meeting and a person may speak at either point, but not both. In addition, at Regular and Special Sessions, the public is always encouraged to speak to items specifically listed on the Agenda and under immediate Council consideration. At Committee of the Whole discussions, general public comment is not provided; instead, public comment is limited to those items listed on the Agenda.

Authority

The rules for the conduct of meetings are set forth in § 2.04 of the Bloomington Municipal Code. Issues of procedure that are not covered by local or State law are resolved by Roberts Rules of Order.

Regular Sessions & Committees of the Whole

As a general rule, the Council meets on the first four Wednesdays of each month. The first and third Wednesdays are set aside for Regular Sessions, where formal actions of the Council occur. The second and fourth Wednesdays are reserved for Committees of the Whole, where matters referred to the Committee are discussed and given a recommendation.

Special Sessions

Occasionally, the Council may vote to hold a Special Session in order to finish items on a long Agenda or to consider one complex piece of legislation.

Budget Sessions

Producing the City budget is a highly collaborative and multi-step process. In the spring, the Controller and the Mayor work with City departments to draft each department's budget. In May, the Mayor invites the Council to a budget advance to discuss budgetary priorities. In August, the Council holds budget hearings wherein each City department presents its proposal and the proposal is discussed. In September and October, the Council meets to vote on the budget.

¹ Indiana Code §5-14-1.5-5

Legislation

Types of Legislation **Appropriation Ordinances** ¶ Appropriation ordinances are those that approve the transfer, deposit, or expenditure of funds.

Ordinances

- Ordinances are those pieces of legislation that most usually ordain a change in the Bloomington Municipal Code. Representative examples include: changes to zoning law, historic designations, additions to the human rights ordinance, and the regulation of food trucks.

Resolutions

- Resolutions are declarations, approvals, and other, less-permanent actions of the Council. Representative examples include: supporting marriage equality in Indiana; granting a tax abatement; and, authorizing an interlocal agreement with Monroe County for animal care and control.

Consideration of a piece of Legislation at the Council

- Usually, the consideration of a piece of legislation follows a three-phase trajectory:
 - **First Reading** – Ordinances are read into the record at a Regular Session by title and synopsis only.
 - **Committee of the Whole Meeting** – Ordinances and resolutions are discussed and preliminary votes are cast.
 - **Final Action** – Votes take place at either a Regular Session or Special Session. Legislation is signed by the Council President and the Mayor.

The Legislative Packet A legislative packet is issued to Councilmembers and the public on the Friday before a Council meeting. The Legislative Packet includes an Agenda, legislation for consideration, and background material relevant to such legislation (e.g, memoranda, reports, maps, etc.) The legislation is posted on the [Council's homepage](#).

» *Call or write the Council Office if you need help finding legislation. 349.3409 or council@bloomington.in.gov*

Evolution & Development of Legislation

- Only Councilmembers or the City Administration may propose legislation. However, it is important to keep in mind that oftentimes policy change starts with members of the community – at the grassroots. Through dedicated advocacy and close work with members of the Council, the Administration, or the City's boards and commissions, oftentimes law change is the direct result of committed residents who identify ways to make our community an even better place.

Office of the Common Council

The Council Office is staffed by an Administrator/Attorney Dan Sherman (shermamd@bloomington.in.gov), Deputy Administrator/Researcher Stacy Jane Rhoads (rhoadss@bloomington.in.gov) and interns who work closely with the Council to foster efficient Council deliberations and to help Council members realize their legislative goals. The Council Office also helps constituents address concerns, conduct legislative research, and lend their voice to the legislative process.


City of Bloomington Municipal Code

The City of Bloomington's Municipal Code consists of ordinances passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. The City Clerk serves as legal custodian of the Code. The Code is organized by subject matter under an expandable three-factor decimal numbering system which is designed to facilitate supplementation without disturbing the numbering of existing provisions. Each section number designates, in sequence, the numbers of the title, chapter, and section. The Code is on-line at: <http://www.bloomington.in.gov/code>.

CHECK OUT THE CITY COUNCIL'S WEBSITE!

www.bloomington.in.gov/council

One of the many ways the Council communicates with citizens is through our website. We provide up-to-date information on Council meetings, Councilmember initiatives and Council committee work. Here's a quick guide to some of the more notable features of the Council Site.



THE CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
John Hamilton, Mayor

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City Council

- » About the Council
- » Council Committees
- » City Council Legislation Center
- » City Council Maps

Related Sections

- » Government
- » City Departments

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- » Office of the Mayor
- » City Council
- » City Clerk
- » Boards and Commissions
- » Contact Us

Select a Bloomington City Department from the list:

City Departments ▼

Home > Government > City Council >

Bloomington Common Council



Front row, l-r: Chris Sturbaum (District II), Susan Sandberg (At-Large and Vice President), Andy Ruff (At-Large and President), and Steve Volan (District VI and Parliamentarian); Back row, l-r: Tim Mayer (At-Large), Allison Chopra (District III), Dorothy Granger (District II), Isabel Piedmont-Smith (District V), and Dave Rollo (District IV).

As the legislative body of the City, the City Council is a link between the citizens of Bloomington and their government. By enacting legislation that fosters the health, safety and welfare of the City, the Council works to represent the interests of residents while ensuring the delivery of municipal services. By statute, the Council is responsible for the control of the City's property and finances, and the appropriation of money (Indiana Code § 36-4-6-1-18).

English ▼


Top Services

- » Employment with the City of Bloomington
- » Parks and Rec Employment
- » Pay Utility Bill
- » Water Utility Forms
- » myBloomington
- » Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults
- » Adoptable Animals
- » Contacting the City
- » Pay Parking Tickets
- » Parking Ticket Appeals


Contact Info

Council Office
401 N Morton St
Ste. 110
Bloomington IN 47404
812-349-3409
council@bloomington.in.gov

Attachments

 Weekly Calendar -- 26 September-01 October 2016

EXPLORE THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES



**THE CITY OF
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Council Committees

- » Sidewalk Committee
- » Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee
- » Peak Oil Taskforce
- » Platinum Biking Task Force

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- » City Clerk
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City Departments

Home > Government > City Council > Council Committees >

Council Committees

The Council convenes a number of standing and ad-hoc Council Committees to address issues of public concern. Two of the Council's most active standing committees are the Sidewalk Committee and the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee. The Sidewalk Committee meets in the autumn of each year to decide how to allocate funds from the City's Alternative Transportation Fund while the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee provides funding to local social services agencies who serve residents in need. Councilmembers also serve on assigned committees convened to make citizen appointments to the City's boards and commissions.

Standing Committees -- Active

- [Sidewalk Committee](#)
- [Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee](#)
- [2015 Board and Commission Council Interview Committees](#)
([Learn more about the City's Boards and Commissions](#))

Previous Ad-Hoc Committees -- Inactive

- [Peak Oil Task Force](#)
- [Deer Task Force](#)
- [Bloomington Platinum Biking Task Force](#)

Information in Council Committees

- Webpages
 - [Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program -- Application Information](#)

Top Services

- » [Employment with the City of Bloomington](#)
- » [Parks and Rec Employment](#)
- » [Pay Utility Bill](#)
- » [Water Utility Forms](#)
- » [myBloomington](#)
- » [Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults](#)
- » [Adoptable Animals](#)
- » [Contacting the City](#)
- » [Pay Parking Tickets](#)
- » [Parking Ticket Appeals](#)

Sign In | A-Z Index | Privacy | Accessibility | Languages | Feeds | Jobs | Sitemap | Indiana Transparency Portal

LEGISLATION

The Friday before a Council meeting, the Council Office posts to both the [Council's homepage](#) and its "[Legislation Center](#)," the *Legislative Packet* relevant to the Council meeting the following week.

The screenshot shows the City of Bloomington website. The header includes the city logo, the name "THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON" with Mayor John Hamilton's name, and a navigation bar with links for Services, News, Calendars, Locations, myBloomington, Sitemap, Subscribe, and Contact Us. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a main navigation menu with categories: Home, Government, Community, Business, Sustainability, Arts & Culture, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Transportation. The left sidebar contains links for City Council (About the Council, Council Committees, City Council Legislation Center, City Council Maps), Related Sections (City Clerk, City Council, City Council Legislation Center, City Council Meeting Agendas, City Council Packets), and City Offices (Office of the Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, Boards and Commissions, Contact Us). There is also a dropdown for "Select a Bloomington City Department from the list" with "City Departments" selected. The main content area is titled "Proposed Legislation" and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Government > City Council > Proposed Legislation. The text explains that each Friday before a Council meeting, the Council Office posts the meeting agenda, proposed legislation, and background material in the "Legislative Packet." It notes that proposed legislation is subject to amendment in Council proceedings. A link is provided for the City Clerk's web page and a link to previous Council meeting minutes. Below this is a section titled "Information in City Council Legislation Center" with two expandable lists: "Packets" (Council Packets: 2016 to 2003) and "Agendas" (Meeting Agendas: 2016 to 2012). The right sidebar features a language dropdown set to "English" and a "Top Services" section with links to Employment with the City of Bloomington, Parks and Rec Employment, Pay Utility Bill, Water Utility Forms, myBloomington, Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults, Adoptable Animals, Contacting the City, Pay Parking Tickets, and Parking Ticket Appeals.

THE CITY OF
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City Council

- » About the Council
- » Council Committees
- » City Council Legislation Center
- » City Council Maps

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- » City Council
- » City Council Legislation Center
- » City Council Meeting Agendas
- » City Council Packets

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Select a Bloomington City Department from the list:

City Departments ▼

Home > Government > City Council > **Proposed Legislation**

Each Friday before a Council meeting, the Council Office posts the meeting agenda, proposed legislation and background material such as reports, memoranda and maps, intended to contextualize the legislation. All this material is packaged in the Council's "Legislative Packet." Proposed legislation -- resolutions, ordinances and appropriation ordinances -- issued in the packet is subject to amendment in the course of Council proceedings. For that reason, legislation issued in the Council's Legislative Packet may be different than that ultimately passed by the Council.

For legislation passed by the Council, please consult the City Clerk's [web page\(click\)](#). Minutes of previous Council meetings can be accessed [here \(click\)](#).

Information in City Council Legislation Center

- ☐ Packets
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2016
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2015
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2014
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2013
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2012
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2011
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2010
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2009
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2008
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2007
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2006
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2005
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2004
 - ☐ Council Packets: 2003
- ☐ Agendas
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2016
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2015
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2014
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2013
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2012
 - ☐ Meeting Agendas: 2011

Top Services

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- » Healthy Indiana Plan - Health Insurance for Adults
- » Adoptable Animals
- » Contacting the City
- » Pay Parking Tickets
- » Parking Ticket Appeals

Councilmember Contact Information

Andy Ruff (President)

E-Mail: ruffa@bloomington.in.gov

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Susan Sandberg (Vice President)

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Bloomington, IN 47408

Steve Volan (Parliamentarian)

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Bloomington, IN 47401

Office of the Common Council

E-Mail: council@bloomington.in.gov

Mailing: 401 N. Morton Ave. Suite
110 Bloomington, IN 47404

*All of this information
including Councilmember's
biographies can be found at
http://bloomington.in.gov/sections/viewSection.php?section_id=404



City of Bloomington, Indiana

Mayor John Hamilton

City Council Members

At-Large: Tim Mayer	District 1: Chris Sturbaum	District 4: Dave Rollo
At-Large: Susan Sandberg	District 2: Dorothy Granger	District 5: Isabel Piedmont-Smith
At-Large: Andy Ruff	District 3: Allison Chopra	District 6: Steve Volan

City Council Districts

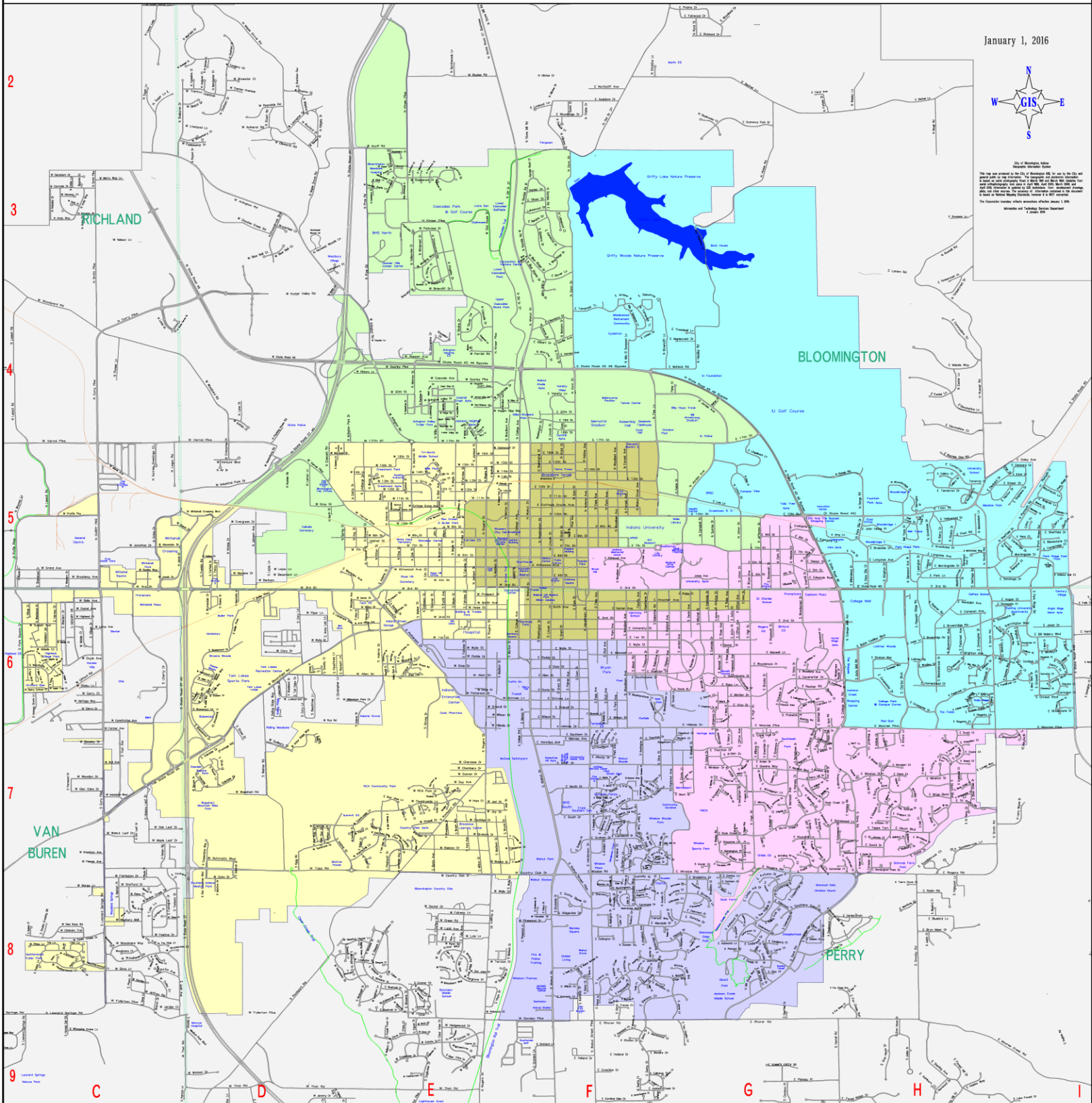
City Clerk, Nicole Bolden



January 1, 2016



This map was prepared by the City of Bloomington GIS, for use by the City and general public as an informational tool. It is not intended for use in legal proceedings or for any other purpose where accuracy is critical. The City of Bloomington is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The map is provided as a service to the public and is not a warranty of any kind.



Bloomington Geographic Information System

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